(b) whether they have any charge on the fixed assets of DIL;

(c) if so, the details of the same; and

(d) the views of the Army Group Insurance as a secured creditor on the rehabilitation scheme of DIL submitted by the present promoter to BIFR?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The investment of Army Group Insurance is secured by a mortgage by deposit of the title deeds relating to the company's immoveable properties and by hypothecation of its moveable properties.

(d) The BIFR has directed Mndustrial Development Bank of India to study the techno-economic viability of the rehabilitation proposal submitted by the promoters by engaging the services of a technical consultant. The report of Tata Consultancy Services which has been engaged by IDBI for such a study, is not yet available. A view on the scheme will be taken when the report is received.

Recruitments in Army and Para-military forces in H.P.

2147. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the distirct-wise and year-wise details of recruitment made by Government for Army and Para-military forces in Himachal Pradesh during the last three years till date;

(b) the details of SC/STs from the planes and ST from the Hills and other weaker sections and general candidates recruited for the aforesaid forces in Himachal Pradesh during this period; and

(c) the concrete steps being taken by Government to give more representation to STs of the Hills in the Army and Para-military forces in Himachal Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) The position with regard to recruitments in Army and Paramilitary Forces in Himachal Pradesh is as under:—

1.ARMY

District-wise details of recruitment in Army from Himachal Pradesh during the last three years are the following:

SI. No.	Districts	Years		
		1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
1.	Bilaspur	172	104	179
2.	Chamba	84	98	121
3.	Hamirpur	408	327	504
4.	Kangra	748	521	559
5.	Kullu	6	17	51
6.	Kinnau	37	0	17
7.	Lahul & Spiti	49	50	46
8.	Mandi	424	270	448
9.	Shimla	118	72	83
10.	Solan	128	76	200
11.	Sirmaur	191	160	141
12.	Una	116	116	342
	TOTAL:	2481	1811	2691

District-wise recruitment details are compiled at the end of the recruitment year. For the year 1999-2000 the details will be compiled only by September-October, 2000.

There are no reserved vacancies in the Army for SC/ST. Recruitment to the Army is carried out through open recruitment rallies where everyone is given a fair chance and selection is carried out on the basis of merit.

The following steps have been taken by government to attract youths from backward areas of Himachal Pradesh:—

(i) Grant of special dispensation in educational qualification for the youth, from class 10 to class 5 for enrolment as Soldier (GD) in the Army in case of Kinnaur, Lahul and Spiti regions of Himachal Pradesh.

(ii) Wide publicity about recruitment rallies is given in the remote and backward areas of the state.

2. PARAMILITARY FORCES

As per information reveived from Ministry of Home Affairs the number of persons recruited in Para Military Forces (PMFs) viz. Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Border Security Force (BSF), Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) and Assam Rifles (AR) during the years 1997, 1998 and 1999 are as under:—

Force	General			SC (Scheduled Caste)			ST(Scheduled Tribe)			OBC (Other Backward Classes)		
	1977	1998	1999	1997	1998	1999	1997	1998	1999	1997	1998	1999
CRPF	18	53	11	12	15	04	07	10	06	16	24	29
BSF	06	50	25	02	15	12	01	08	03	03	27	10
CISF	11	—	04	05	—	02	02	—	01	03	—	03
ITBP	06	—	81	—	—	16	02	—	12	—	—	16
AR	—	__	35	—	—	09	—	—	—	—	—	56

In Paramilitary forces a State/Union Territory is considered as one unit, and therefore, district wise information is not maintained. Separate statistics are also not available for hill and .plain areas.

Purchase of arms, ammunitions and stores

2148. SHRI DINA NATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total purchase of arms, ammunitions and stores by Defence Ministry during last five years;

(b) how much of that has been from Indian ordnance factories, private factories; and from foreign firms separately; and

(c) how many purchases have been done from foreign firms, through Indian as well as foreign agents separately?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The total purchases of arms, ammunitions and stores by the Defence Ministry during the last five years was Rs. 94,055.30 crores. Out of this, the total purchase from Indian ordnance factories was Rs. 13,107.75 crores and Rs. 80947.55 crores from private factories and foreign firms together.

(c) The existing Government instructions debar the involvement of agents in the procurement of weapons and weapon systems for the Armed Forces.